

REMARKS

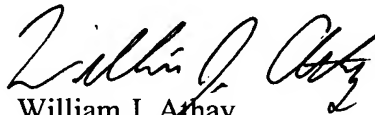
Claims 1-17 have been cancelled and new claims 18-47 have been added. Accordingly, claims 18-47 are pending in the present application. The new claims are supported by the specification and drawings as originally filed, with no new matter being added. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to reflect that parent Application No. 09/981,549 has now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,717,211.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the present claims. In the event there is any impediment to allowance of the claims, which could be clarified in a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 8th day of October, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,



William J. Athay
Registration No. 44,515
Attorney for Applicant
Customer No. 022901